

**Statement-I****Location-wise Details of Existing TV Transmitters in West Bengal (as on 20.02.1997)**

HPT	LPT	VLPT
Asansol	Alipurduar	Egra
Calcutta	Balurghat	Jhalda
Calcutta (DD2)	Bardhaman	
Calcutta (DD3)	Contai	
Kurseong	Darjeeling	
Murshidabad	Jhargram	
	Kalimpong	
	Kharagpur	
	Kalna	
	Krishnanagar	
	Maldah	
	Medinipur	
	Puruliya	
	Ranaghat	
	Shantiniketan	

HPT : High Power TV Transmitter

LPT : Low Power TV Transmitter

VLPT : Very Low Power TV Transmitter

**Statement-II****Locations where TV Transmitter Projects are presently under Implementation/Envisaged to be set up in West Bengal (as on 31.01.1997)**

Under Implementation	Envisaged
<i>LPTs</i>	<i>HPTs</i>
Farakka	Balurghat
Rayna	Kharagpur
Murshidabad (DD2)	Krishnanagar
Basanti	Shantiniketan
Bishnupur	
	<i>LPTs/VLPTs</i>
	Garhbeta
	Balrampur
	Cooch Bihar
	Baghmandi

**Proposal to Run 'Palace on Wheels' Train**

873. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to start "Palace on Wheels" type train covering different centres of Eastern region by involving different State Tourism Corporations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) In May 1994, Global bids were invited by Ministry of Railways for ownership marketing and management of five tourist trains on popular circuits including the Eastern Circuit covering Calcutta-Gaya (Rajgir/Nalanda)-Varanasi (Sarnath)-Gorakhpur (Lumbini/Kushinagar)-Bhubaneswar-Puri-Calcutta. The only bid which was received did not conform to the terms and conditions of the tender and was, therefore, not accepted.

**Survey for Operating EMU Local Trains**

874. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to operate EMU local Trains from Platform No. 5 of Dum Dum railway station to different directions during the peak hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The track connections available from Platform No. 5 of Dum Dum permit movement only towards Bongaon and Circular Railway (non electrified)

(c) Does not arise.

**Flight from Agartala to Bagdogra**

875. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to operate flight from Agartala to Bagdogra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to operate its services from Agartala to Bagdogra due to inadequate traffic demand. Private Operators with suitable aircraft are, however, being encouraged to add more stations in their network including Agartala and Bagdogra.

**Flight for Gangtok**

876. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to operate flights to and from Gangtok;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines or Alliance Air have no immediate plans to operate air services from Gangtok due to non-availability of operational airfield there.

[Translation]

#### Functioning of Telephone Exchange

877. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone exchange established in 1992 in Barkattha Block (G.T. Road) in Hajaribagh district has not started functioning so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the adequate staff posted there is drawing salary since 1992; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against the officers found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) No, Sir.

A 128 port C-DOT exchange was commissioned at Barkattha in Hajaribagh district on 31.1.92 and is functioning satisfactorily. Barkattha exchange has 41 working connections. This exchange falls under Barhi SDCA and is connected to 512P C-DOT exchange at Barhi on 3 chl. G 1 system. The distance between Barhi and Barkattha is 25 KMs. The overhead line passing through thick forest area where theft of line materials takes place resulting in interruption in STD Services.

[English]

#### Conference of Mining Opportunities

878. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an International Conference on mining opportunities was held in Nagpur recently;

(b) if so, the gist of the deliberations of the conference; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes Sir, International Conference on Mining Opportunities in Central India was held on 18th and 19th January, 1997 at Nagpur, Maharashtra under the aegis of Confederation of Indian Industry (Western Region) and Vidarbha Economic Development Council.

(b) and (c) The deliberations of the Conference, inter-alia, included delegation of powers to the State Governments for the renewal of the Prospecting

Licences and Mining Leases for minerals listed in Part C of the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, besides speeding up of the grant of mineral concessions to the needy applicants. The Central Govt. has already delegated the powers of renewal of the prospecting licences under Section 7 (2) and mining leases under Section 8 (2) of the Act to the State Governments. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) has also been constituted with Secretaries, Mines and Geology, of the State Governments for the delegation of powers to the State Governments besides removing the bottlenecks in the grant of mineral concessions to the needy applicants.

#### Supply of Uniform

879. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the TS/TM/DTS/DTM/AC staff, TXR Staff, Catering Inspectors are performing their duties in the prestigious trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains under Eastern Railway without uniforms;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Eastern Railway authorities have failed to provide uniforms to them whereas other Zonal Railways have provided uniforms to such staff;

(c) if so, the action taken against the officials for not providing uniforms to these staff in time;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide uniforms to these staff; and

(e) the time by which uniforms are likely to be provide to these staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

#### Yatri Seva Agents for Railway Bookings

880. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Yatri Seva agents working for railway bookings particularly in backward/rural/tribal areas of Gujarat;

(b) whether representations regarding authorising more agents in this area have been received;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) the number of applications received in this regard and the number out of them accorded approval; and

(e) the time by which the remaining applications will be accorded approval?